



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
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2007 Red Meat Production

For immediate release: March 7, 2008

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Montana slaughter plants produced 16.2 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during 2007, unchanged from 2006, according to USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office. There were 19,400 cattle slaughtered during 2007, unchanged from the previous year. The total live weight of 23.1 million pounds was down slightly from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 5 pounds to 1,190 pounds.

There were 13,800 hogs slaughtered in Montana, down 9 percent from 2006. Total live weight of 3.5 million pounds was down 8 percent from last year. The average live weight was 250 pounds per head compared with 248 the previous year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 3,500 head, down 100 head from 2006. Total live weight of all sheep and lambs slaughtered in 2007 increased 9 percent from 2006 to 399,000 pounds. The average live weight, of 114 pounds, was 12 pounds higher than the previous year.

The number of federally inspected slaughter plants in Montana on January 1, 2008 was 8, unchanged from 2007. There were 145 non-federally inspected plants on January 1, 2008, down 51 plants from the same date a year ago.

Total red meat production for the United States totaled 48.8 billion pounds in 2007, 2 percent higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 48.7 billion pounds. On-farm production totaled 135 million pounds.

Beef production totaled 26.5 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Veal production totaled 146 million pounds, down 6 percent from last year. Pork production, at 22.0 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Lamb and mutton production totaled 188 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2006.

U.S. commercial cattle slaughter during 2007 totaled 34.3 million head, up 2 percent from 2006, with federal inspection comprising 98.4 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,269 pounds, down 2 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 51.3 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, heifers 30.3 percent, dairy cows 7.4 percent, other cows 9.4 percent, and bulls 1.6 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 758,100 head, 7 percent higher than a year ago with 98.2 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 303 pounds, down 39 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter in the U.S. totaled 109.2 million head, 4 percent higher than 2006 with 99.1 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was unchanged from last year, at 269 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 96.5 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.69 million head, was down slightly from the previous year with 93.9 percent comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight was unchanged from 2006 at 136 pounds. Lambs and yearlings comprised 95.4 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

There were 808 plants slaughtering under federal inspection in the U.S. on January 1, 2008 compared with 795 last year. Of these, 626 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2007 with the 14 largest plants slaughtering 54 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 618 plants, with the 11 largest plants accounting for 51 percent of the total. Likewise, 6 of the 232 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for 63 percent of the total and 4 of the 480 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2007 comprised 68 percent of the total head.

Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas accounted for 51 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2007, similar to 2006.

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